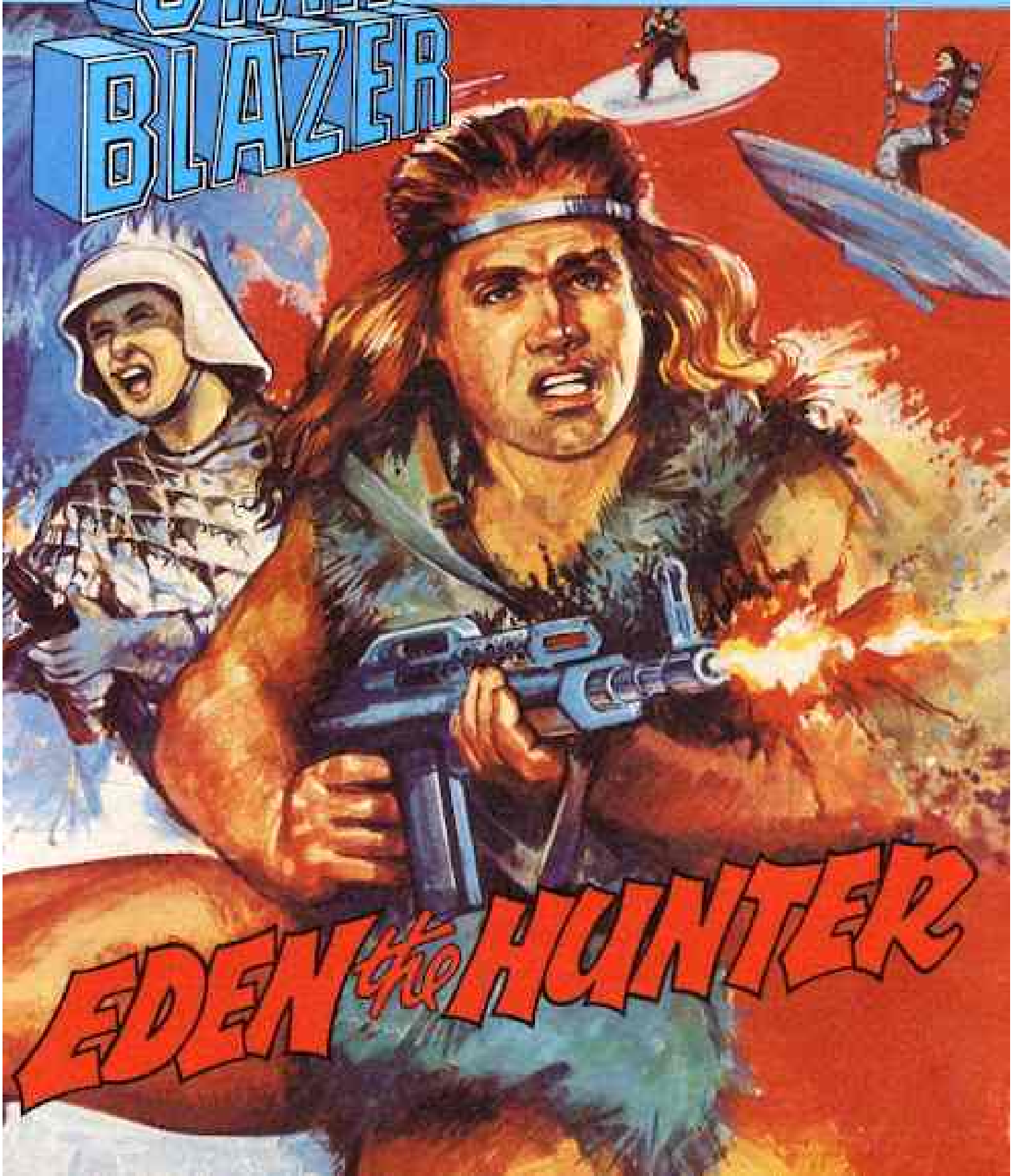
STAR BLAZER

FANTASY FICTION IN PICTURES No 180

26p

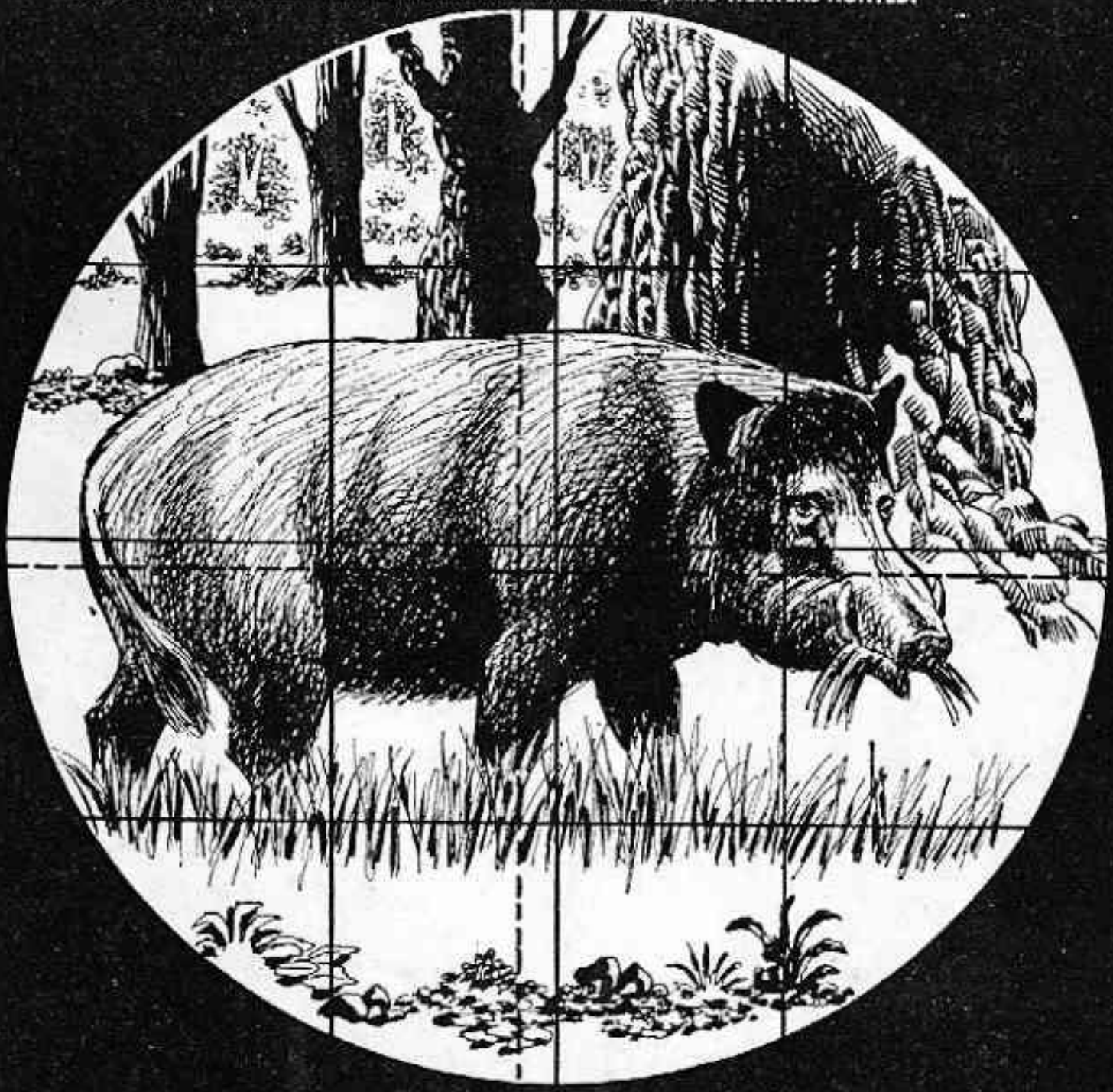


DON'T FORGET THIS MONTH'S *OTHER*

On sale at your newsagent's *NOW!*

EDEN The HUNTER

THE EARTH EMPIRE COLLAPSED AFTER A SERIES OF BITTER WARS. ONCE THE DUST HAD SETTLED THE PEOPLE OF EARTH DECIDED TO KEEP THEMSELVES TO THEMSELVES AND RETURNED TO A PEACEFUL, AGRICULTURAL PLANET WHERE FARMERS FARMED, AND HUNTERS HUNTED.



A VILLAGE HUNTER, EDEN HAD PAINSTAKINGLY TRACKED A SOURCE OF FOOD.
THIS ANIMAL SHOULD FEED MY PEOPLE FOR A FEW DAYS.

BUT A SUDDEN DISTURBANCE CAUSED THE BEAST TO FLEE.
WHAT'S HAPPENING?

RHINOMALS WERE NERVOUS CREATURES, AND REACTED VIOLENTLY TO THE SCENT OF HUMANS —
OH . . . HELP! A RHINOMAL!
EDEN ATTEMPTED TO LEAP TO SAFETY —
AAAAH! IT'S GOT MY JET PACK!
THE RHINOMAL BLUNDERED OFF —
HOW WILL I BE ABLE TO GET BACK TO THE VILLAGE WITHOUT THE JET PACK?

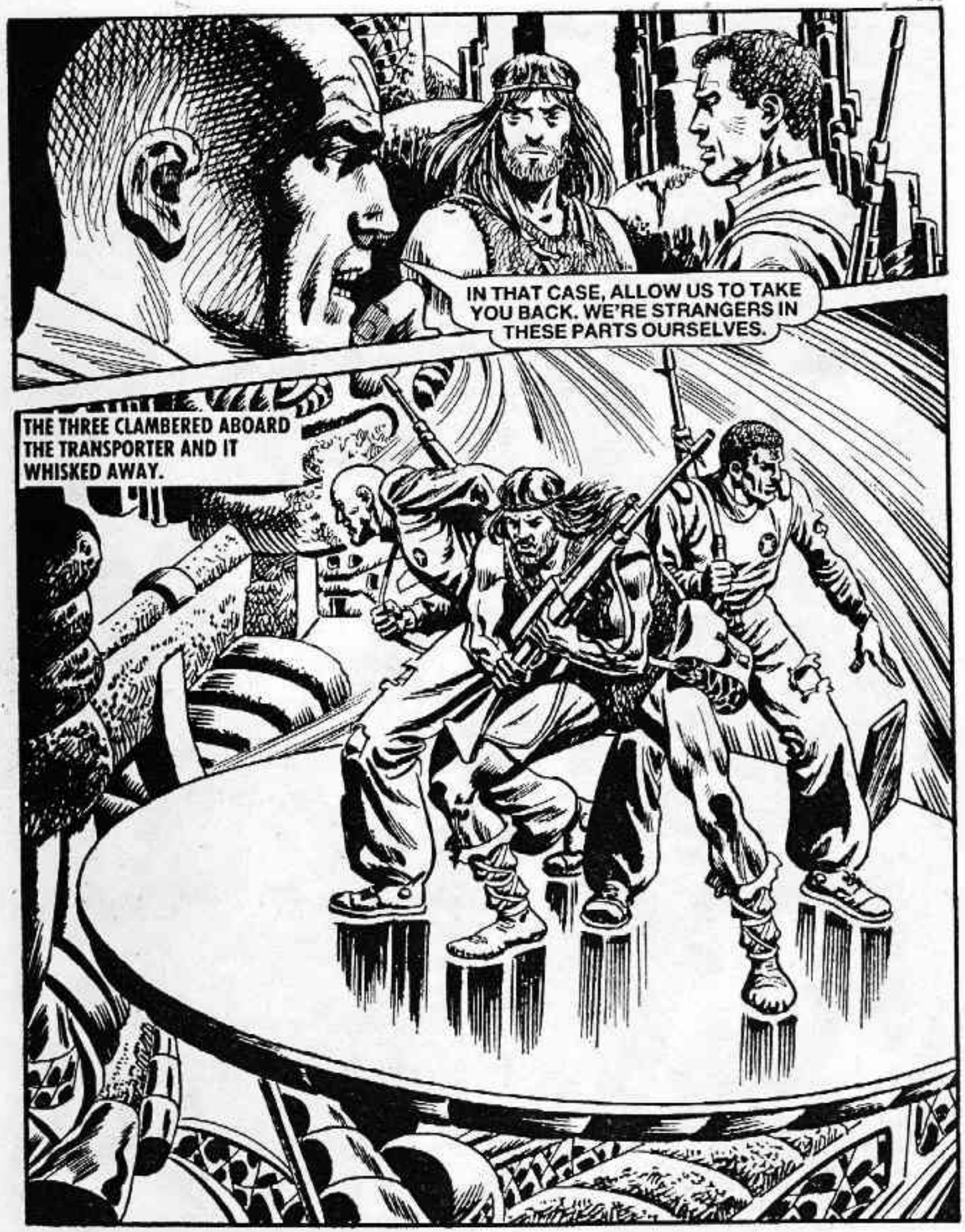
EDEN HAD NO OPTION BUT TO TRY AND MAKE HIS WAY BACK ON FOOT —
I HAVE LITTLE IDEA OF WHERE I AM! I HAVE ONLY SEEN THE FOREST FROM THE AIR.
AS EDEN HACKED HIS WAY THROUGH THE UNDERGROWTH.
WHAT IS THAT? A ROAD IN THE SKY!

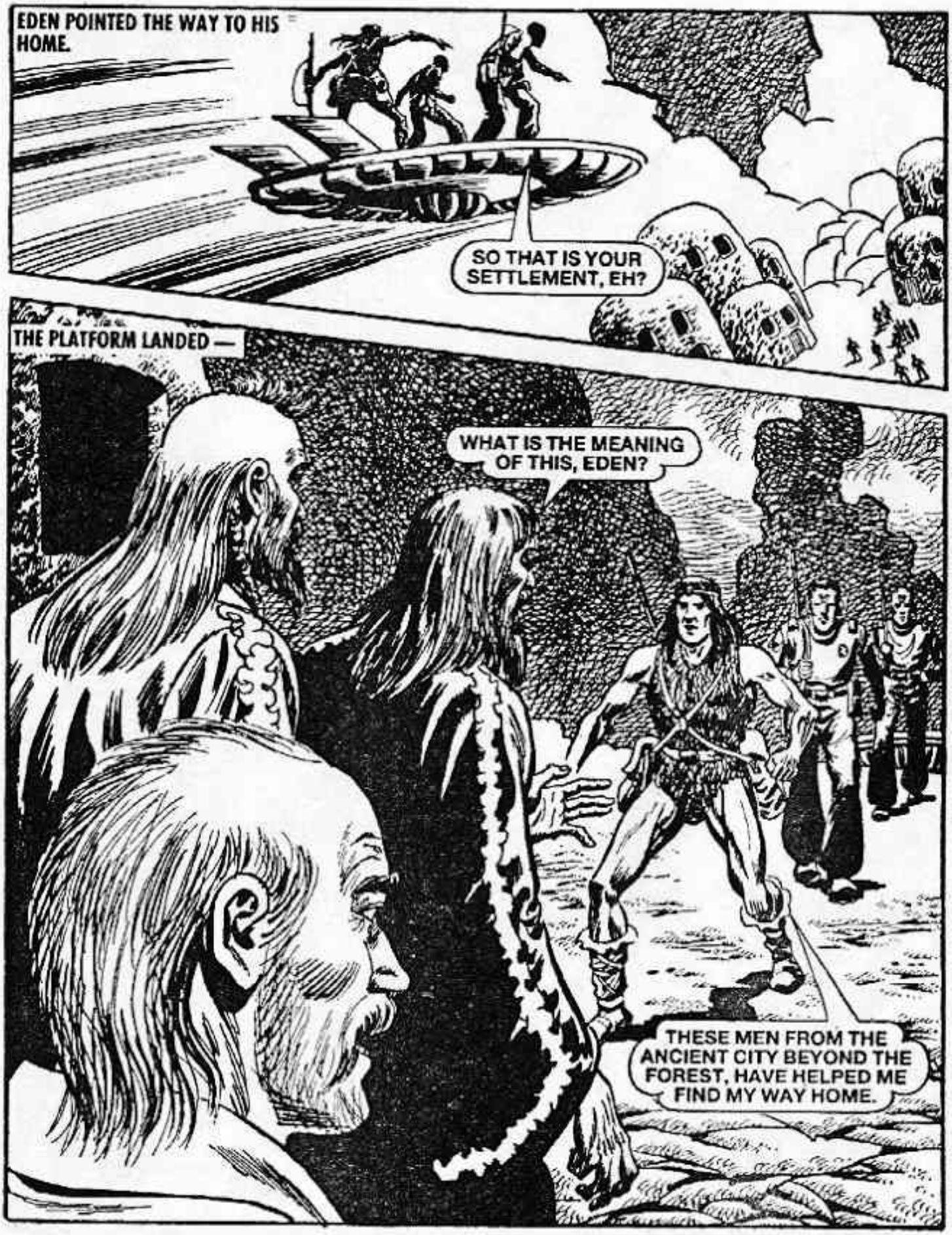
IT MUST LEAD SOMEWHERE!
A CITY! IT MUST BE ONE OF THOSE THE VILLAGE ELDERS SPEAK OF.

EDEN WANDERED THROUGH THE OVERGROWN, DESERTED CITY.
IT'S DESERTED NOW! BUT IT MUST HAVE BEEN AN IMPORTANT PLACE AT ONE TIME.
EDEN SAW A FLYING DISK PARKED IN A RUBBLE STREWN STREET.
I HAVE SEEN THOSE THINGS FLYING!
AS EDEN MOVED TOWARDS THE TRANSPORT, A FLASH OF ENERGY LANCED OUT.
AARGH!

ENCLOSED IN AN ENERGY BUBBLE, EDEN COWERED.
HUMANS!
WHO ARE YOU? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

MY NAME IS EDEN. I COME FROM THE MOUNTAINS. I LOST MY WAY AND STUMBLED ON THIS CITY.
WE WISH YOU NO HARM! UNFORTUNATELY, THERE IS LITTLE FOOD HERE. I SUGGEST YOU RETURN TO YOUR PEOPLE.
THAT IS MY INTENTION, BUT IT IS A LONG WAY.


IN THAT CASE, ALLOW US TO TAKE YOU BACK. WE'RE STRANGERS IN THESE PARTS OURSELVES.
THE THREE CLAMBERED ABOARD THE TRANSPORTER AND IT WHISKED AWAY.

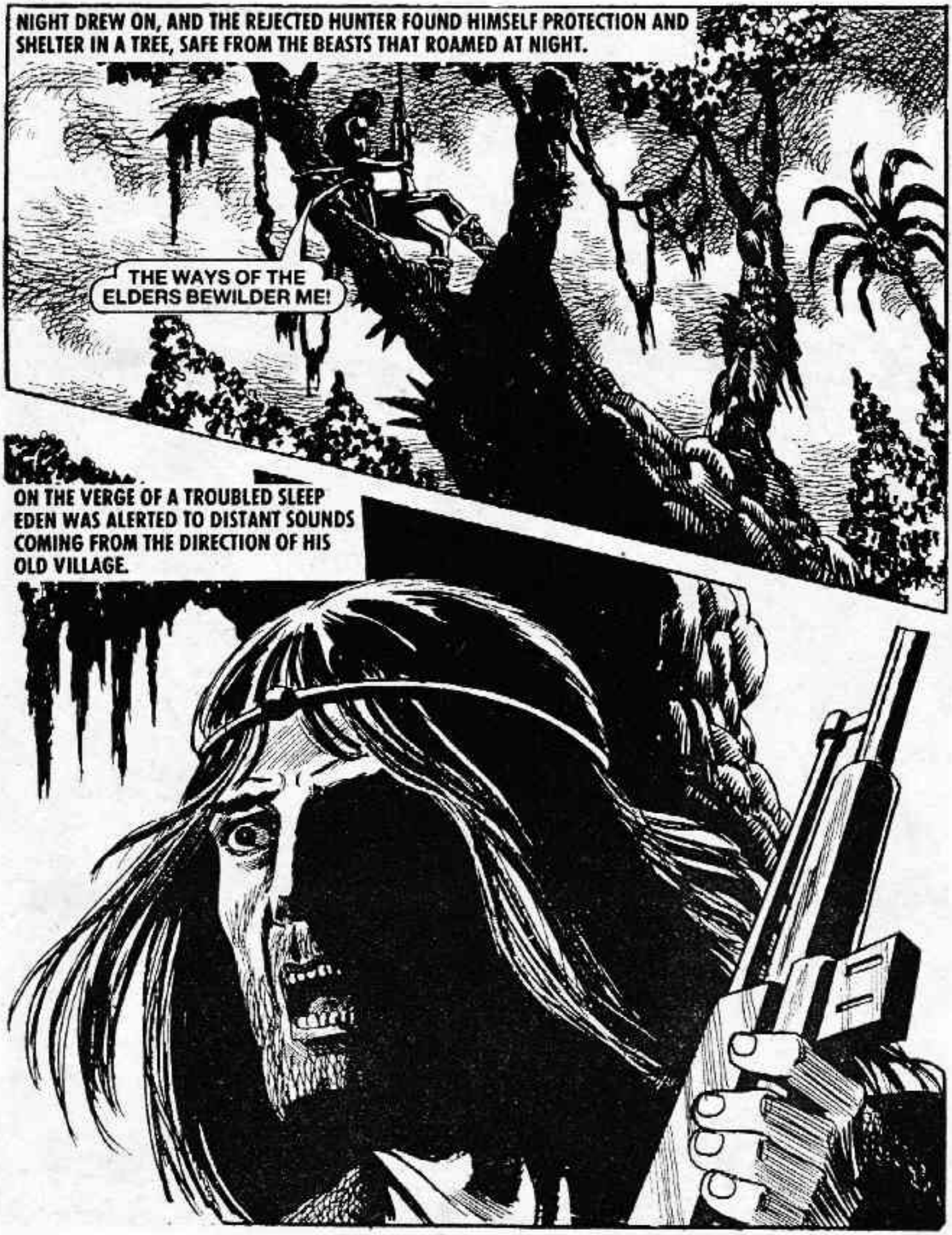

EDEN POINTED THE WAY TO HIS HOME.
SO THAT IS YOUR SETTLEMENT, EH?
THE PLATFORM LANDED —
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS, EDEN?
THESE MEN FROM THE ANCIENT CITY BEYOND THE FOREST, HAVE HELPED ME FIND MY WAY HOME.

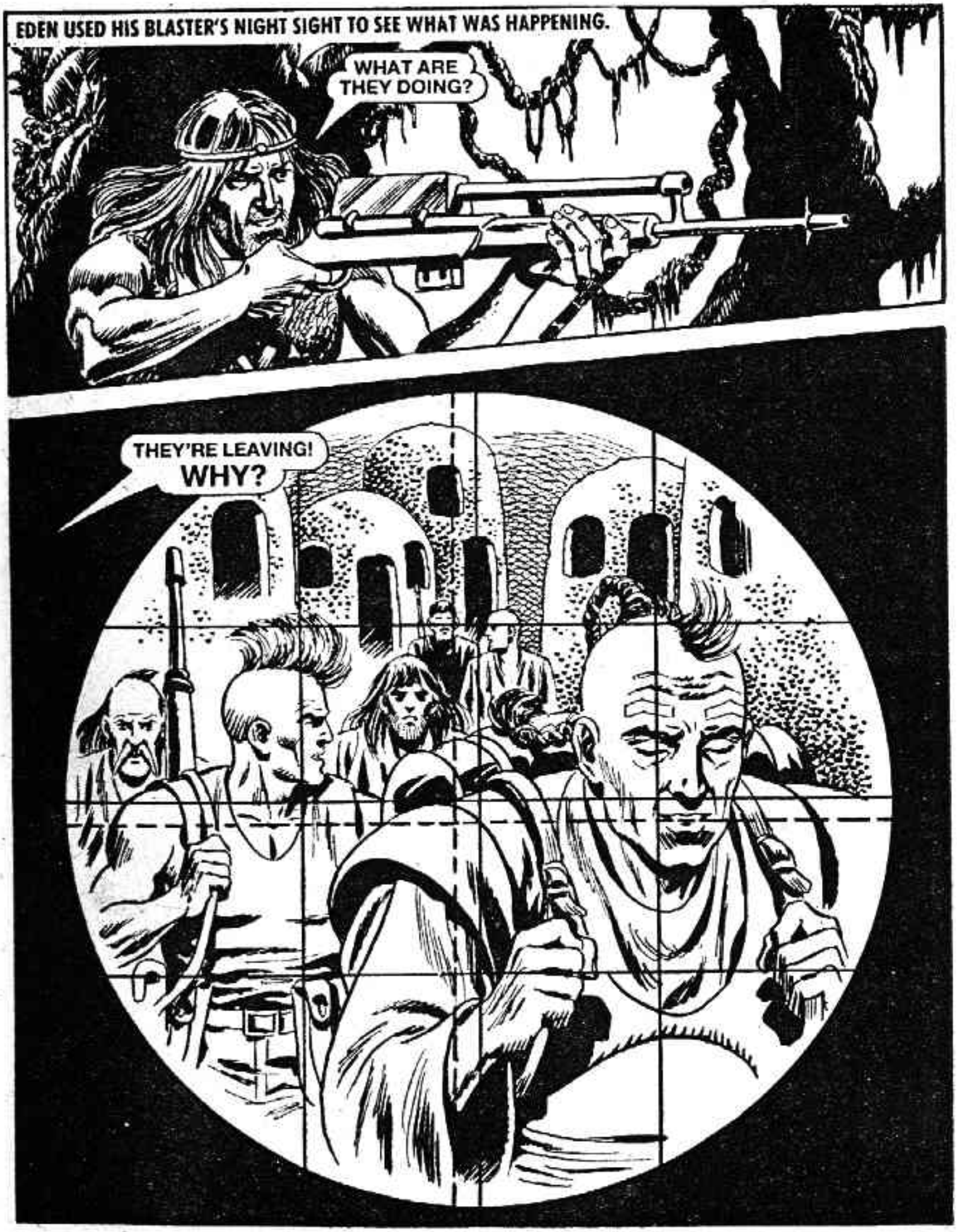
YOU KNOW OUR LAWS — THESE MEN ARE OUTSIDERS. NO PERSON BORN OUTSIDE OUR LANDS IS PERMITTED HERE.
DEATH TO THE OUTSIDERS!
BUT . . .
THE TWO CITY DWELLERS MADE A DASH FOR FREEDOM.
KILL THE INTERLOPERS!

BUT THE TWO OUTSIDERS MADE IT TO THEIR TRANPORTER.
YOU FOOLS! THEY ARE ESCAPING!
WHY DO YOU WANT TO DESTROY THEM?
OUR LAWS MUST BE OBEYED.

EDEN FOUND HIMSELF LOOKING DOWN THE BARREL OF A BLASTER.
I DO NOT UNDERSTAND . . .
YOU BROKE ONE OF THE SACRED RULES BY BRINGING OUTSIDERS HERE. GO — YOU MUST NEVER SET FOOT HERE OR COMMUNICATE WITH US AGAIN. IF YOU DO, DEATH WILL RESULT.

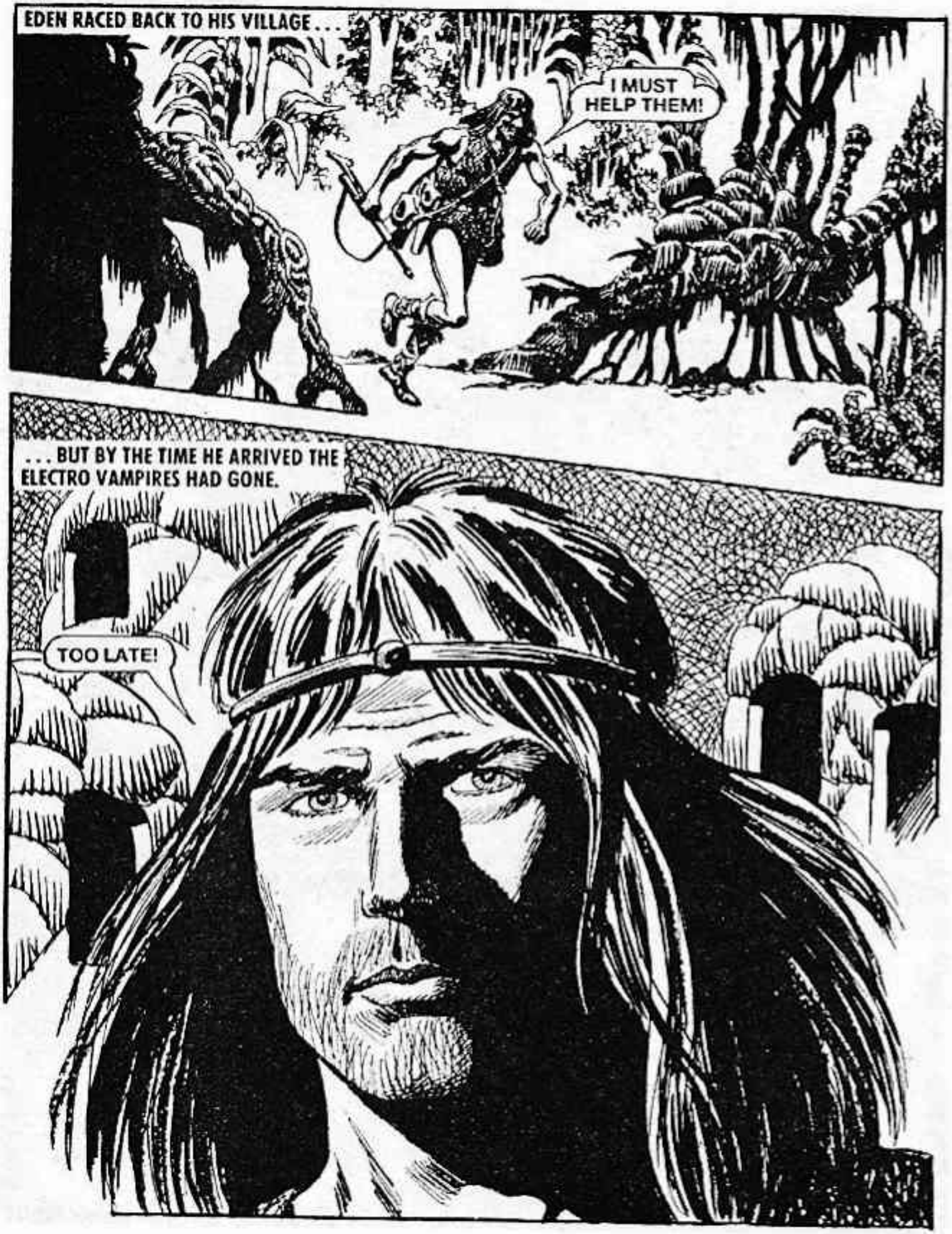
EDEN COLLECTED HIS FEW POSSESSIONS AND RELUCTANTLY LEFT.


NIGHT DREW ON, AND THE REJECTED HUNTER FOUND HIMSELF PROTECTION AND SHELTER IN A TREE, SAFE FROM THE BEASTS THAT ROAMED AT NIGHT.
THE WAYS OF THE ELDERS BEWILDER ME!
ON THE VERGE OF A TROUBLED SLEEP EDEN WAS ALERTED TO DISTANT SOUNDS COMING FROM THE DIRECTION OF HIS OLD VILLAGE.

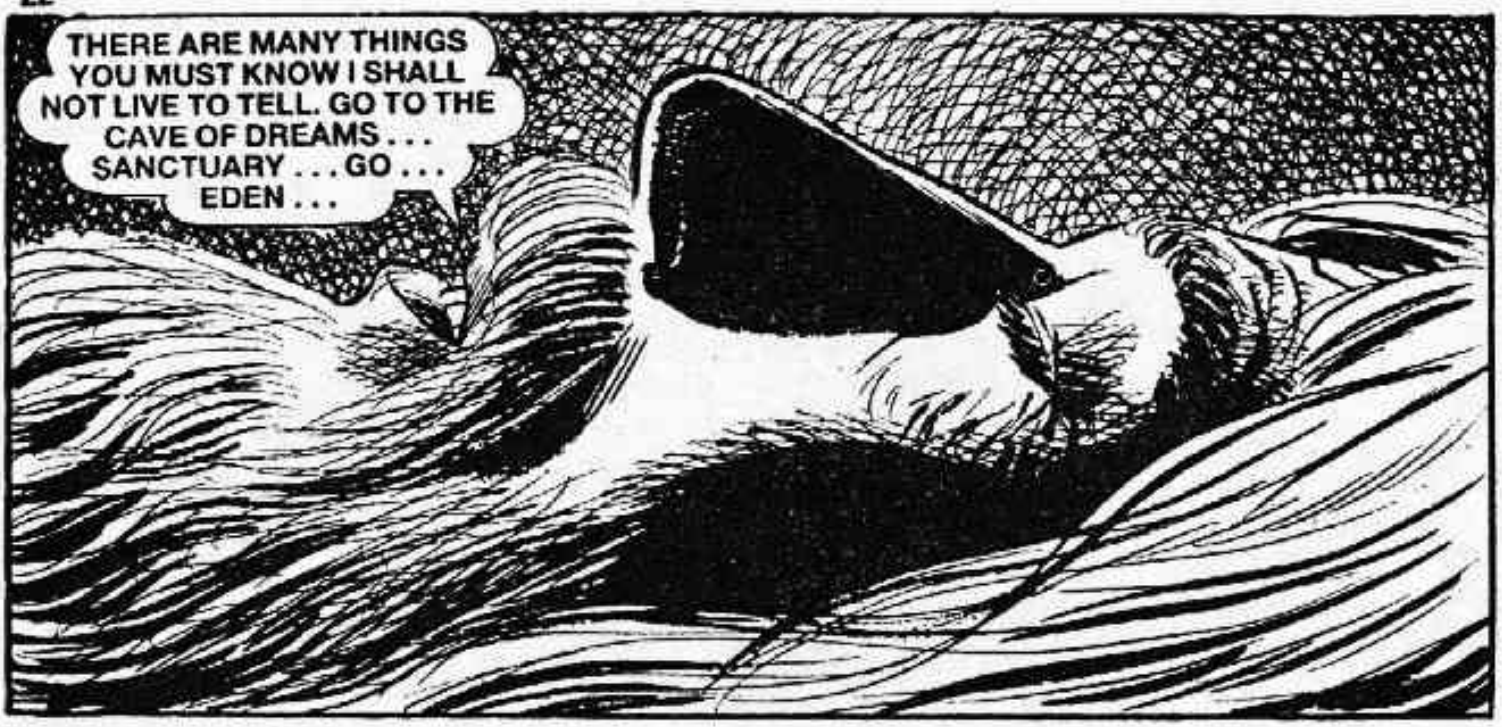

EDEN USED HIS BLASTER'S NIGHT SIGHT TO SEE WHAT WAS HAPPENING.
WHAT ARE THEY DOING?
THEY'RE LEAVING! WHY?

AS THE TRIBE PREPARED TO ABANDON THE VILLAGE, A SILENT ENEMY ENTERED THEIR DOMAIN.
WINGED VAMPIRES? FLEE!

OUR WEAPONS ARE POWERLESS AGAINST THEM!
THE TRIBE WERE NO MATCH FOR THE SUPERIOR ENEMY—


EDEN RACED BACK TO HIS VILLAGE . . .
I MUST HELP THEM!
. . . BUT BY THE TIME HE ARRIVED THE ELECTRO VAMPIRES HAD GONE.
TOO LATE!

DEAD! ALL DEAD!
EDEN! . . .
WH . . . WHAT . . .?
EDEN DISCOVERED THE HIGH PRIEST—
THE BURN MARKS!
YOU MUST LEARN THE TRUTH . . . YOU ARE THE LAST OF OUR TRIBE . . .


THERE ARE MANY THINGS YOU MUST KNOW I SHALL NOT LIVE TO TELL. GO TO THE CAVE OF DREAMS . . . SANCTUARY . . . GO . . . EDEN . . .

I KNOW NOW WHAT IS HAPPENING!

EDEN MADE HIS WAY TO THE CAVE OF DREAMS. A PLACE VISITED ONLY BY THE ELDERS—
WHAT DO I DO NOW? WHAT DOES SANCTUARY MEAN?
UNKNOWN TO EDEN, "SANCTUARY" WAS THE KEYWORD THAT OPENED A HOLOSEAL TO THE CAVE.
WHAT THE . . .?

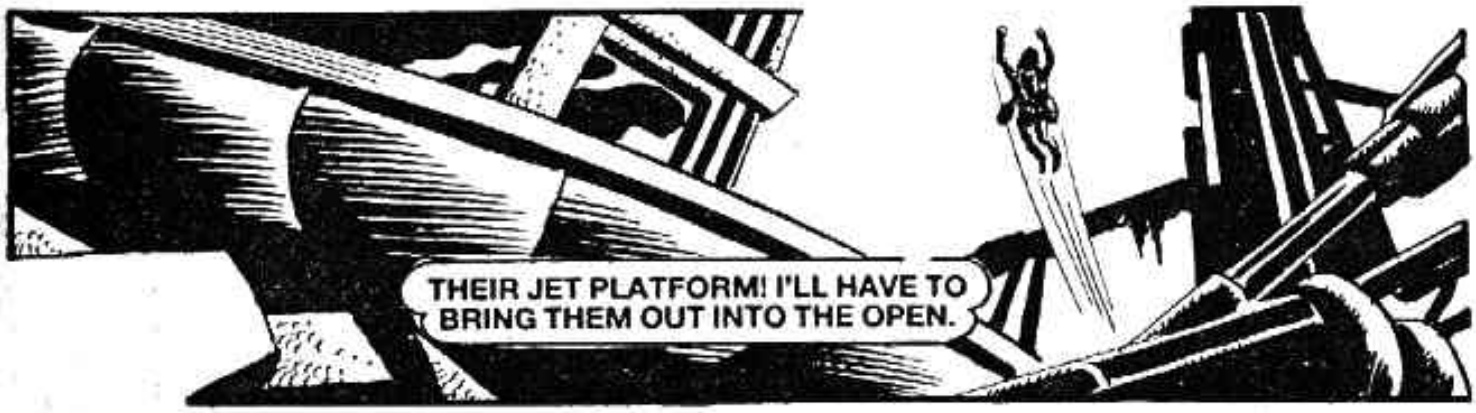
EDEN WAS STARTLED BY THE VOICE OF THE COMPUTER.
WHAT ARE YOUR COMMANDS?
WHO SPEAKS?
I AM SPECTRUM . . . THE SOURCE OF ALL KNOWLEDGE.
THE COMPUTER CRACKLED INTO LIFE—
TELL ME WHERE MY TRIBE CAME FROM AND WHY THEY WERE DESTROYED.
OURS WAS ONCE A PROSPEROUS PLANET, THE CENTRE OF MUCH INTERGALACTIC TRADE.

THEN THE ELECTRONIC ENTITIES CAME FROM A FAR GALAXY. THEY REQUIRED NEW SOURCES OF FOOD — US!
WHAT DID THEY WANT WITH US?
THEY NEEDED OUR POWER. THESE ELECTRO VAMPIRES LIVE OFF ANY ENERGY SOURCES THAT ARE AVAILABLE.

OUR PEOPLE WAGED A LOSING BATTLE AGAINST THESE CREATURES. THE HIGH PRIEST EVACUATED THE CITY AND TOOK HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO A PLACE OF SAFETY FAR BEYOND THE CLUTCHES OF THE ELECTRO VAMPIRES. HE ESTABLISHED A VILLAGE IN THESE MOUNTAINS AND WAS SECURE HERE FOR MANY YEARS, SAFE FROM OUTSIDERS.
I BROUGHT THE OUTSIDERS, WHO IN TURN BROUGHT THE VAMPIRES. I DESTROYED MY PEOPLE. I MUST SEEK REVENGE.
THERE IS NO WAY TO DEFEAT THE VAMPIRES. BUT IF YOU MUST TRY, YOU WILL FIND AN ARMOURY FURTHER INSIDE THIS CAVE.

SOMEONE IS GOING TO PAY FOR MY TRIBE'S BETRAYAL.

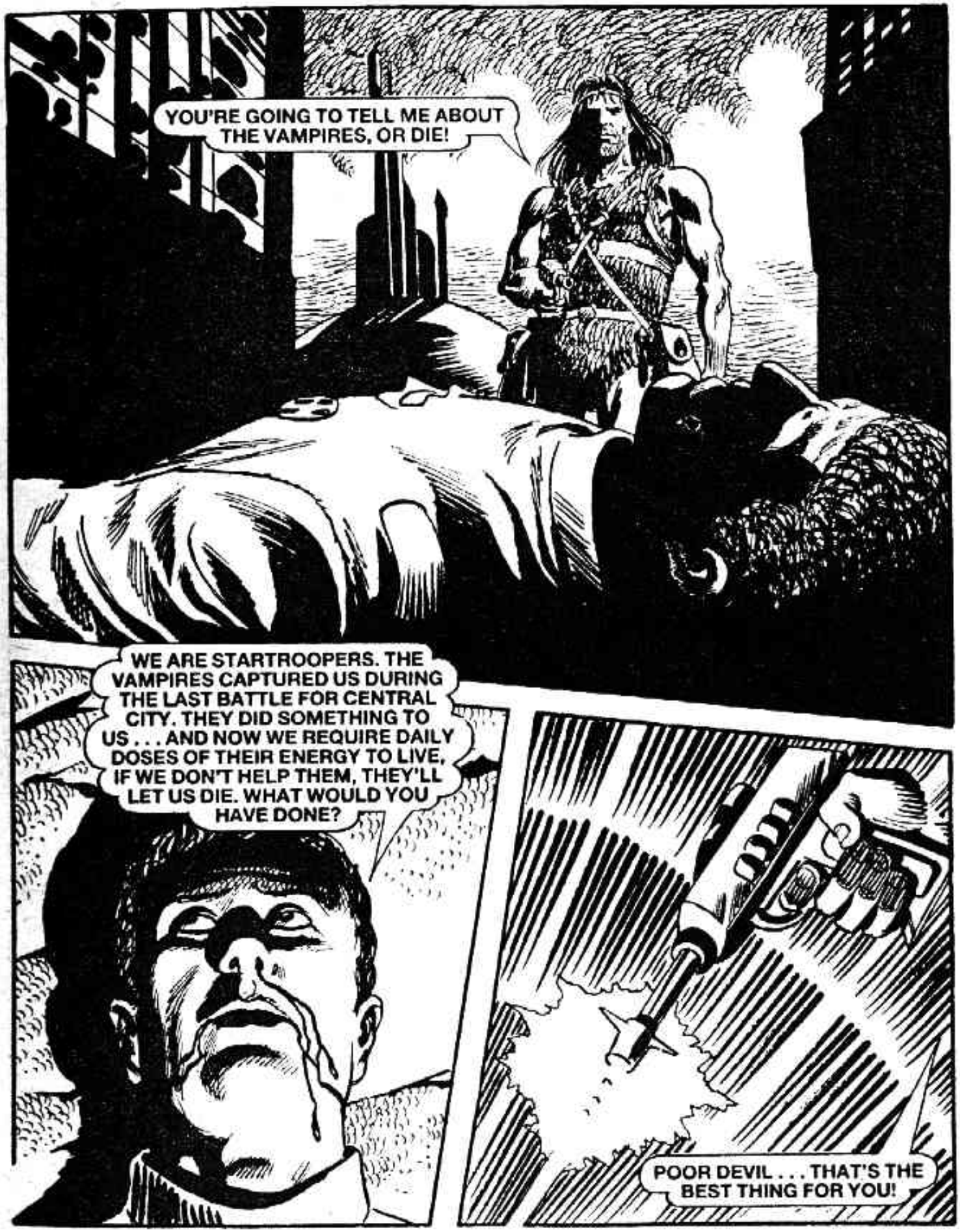
USING A JET-PACK EDEN THE HUNTER RETURNED TO THE DESERTED CITY IN SEARCH OF THE TWO MEN.


THEIR JET PLATFORM! I'LL HAVE TO BRING THEM OUT INTO THE OPEN.

BUT AS EDEN LANDED—
THEY MUST HAVE BEEN EXPECTING SOMEBODY!
NOW I'VE A LITTLE SURPRISE FOR YOU.

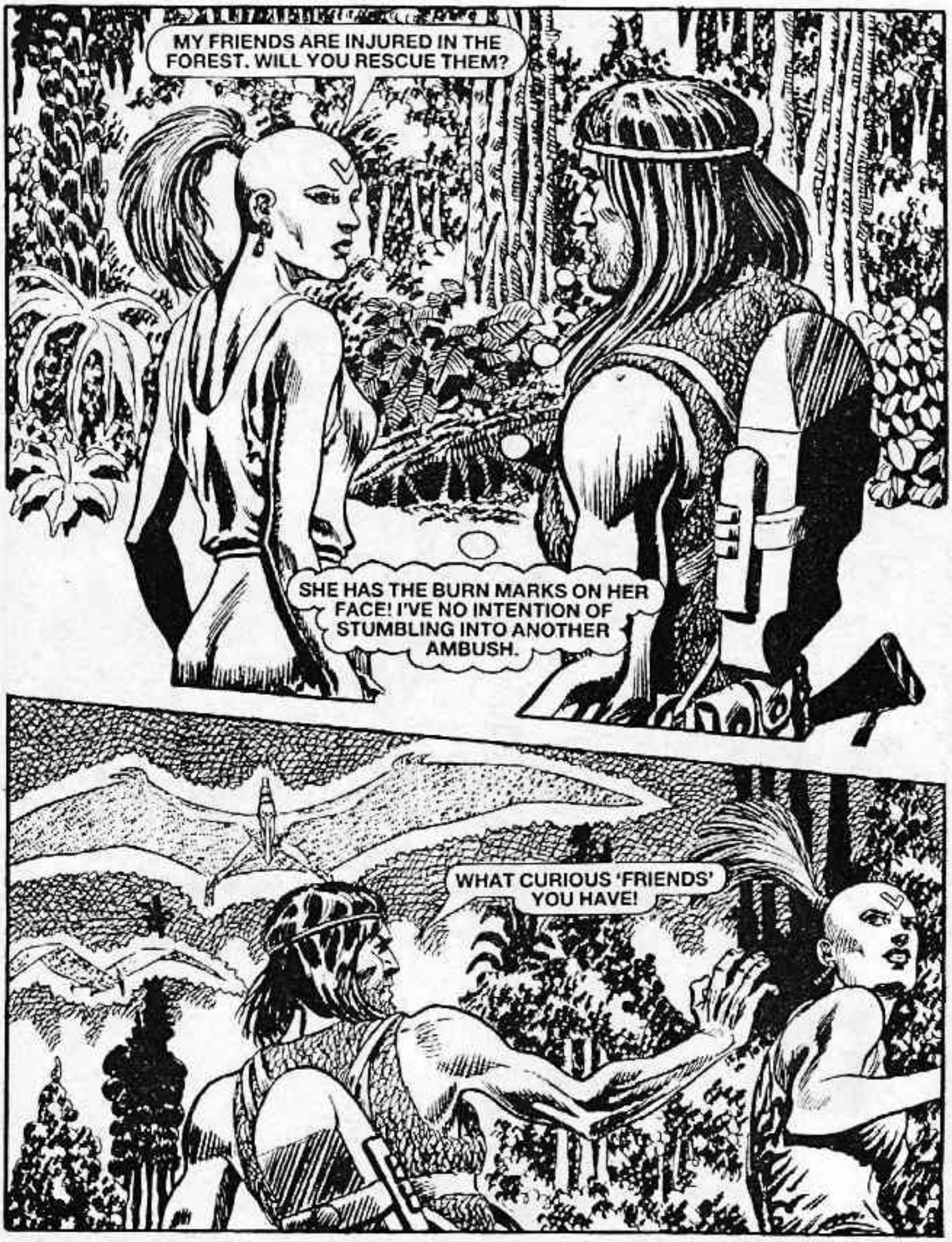
LET'S FIND OUT WHAT YOUR FRIEND HAS IN MIND.
DIE!

WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT!
EDEN'S HIT CAUSED THE JET PLATFORM FLEW OUT OF CONTROL AND CRASHED INTO ONE OF THE BUILDINGS.


YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME ABOUT THE VAMPIRES, OR DIE!
WE ARE STARTROOPERS. THE VAMPIRES CAPTURED US DURING THE LAST BATTLE FOR CENTRAL CITY. THEY DID SOMETHING TO US . . . AND NOW WE REQUIRE DAILY DOSES OF THEIR ENERGY TO LIVE. IF WE DON'T HELP THEM, THEY'LL LET US DIE. WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE?
POOR DEVIL . . . THAT'S THE BEST THING FOR YOU!

EDEN LEFT THE CITY TO RETURN TO HIS VILLAGE—
I'LL RETURN TO THE VILLAGE. MAYBE I CAN PICK UP THE VAMPIRE'S TRAIL FROM THERE.
EDEN SET OFF IN SEARCH OF HIS TRIBE'S MURDERERS.
THERE'S NO SIGN OF THEM HAVING BEEN HERE. I'LL TRY THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN.

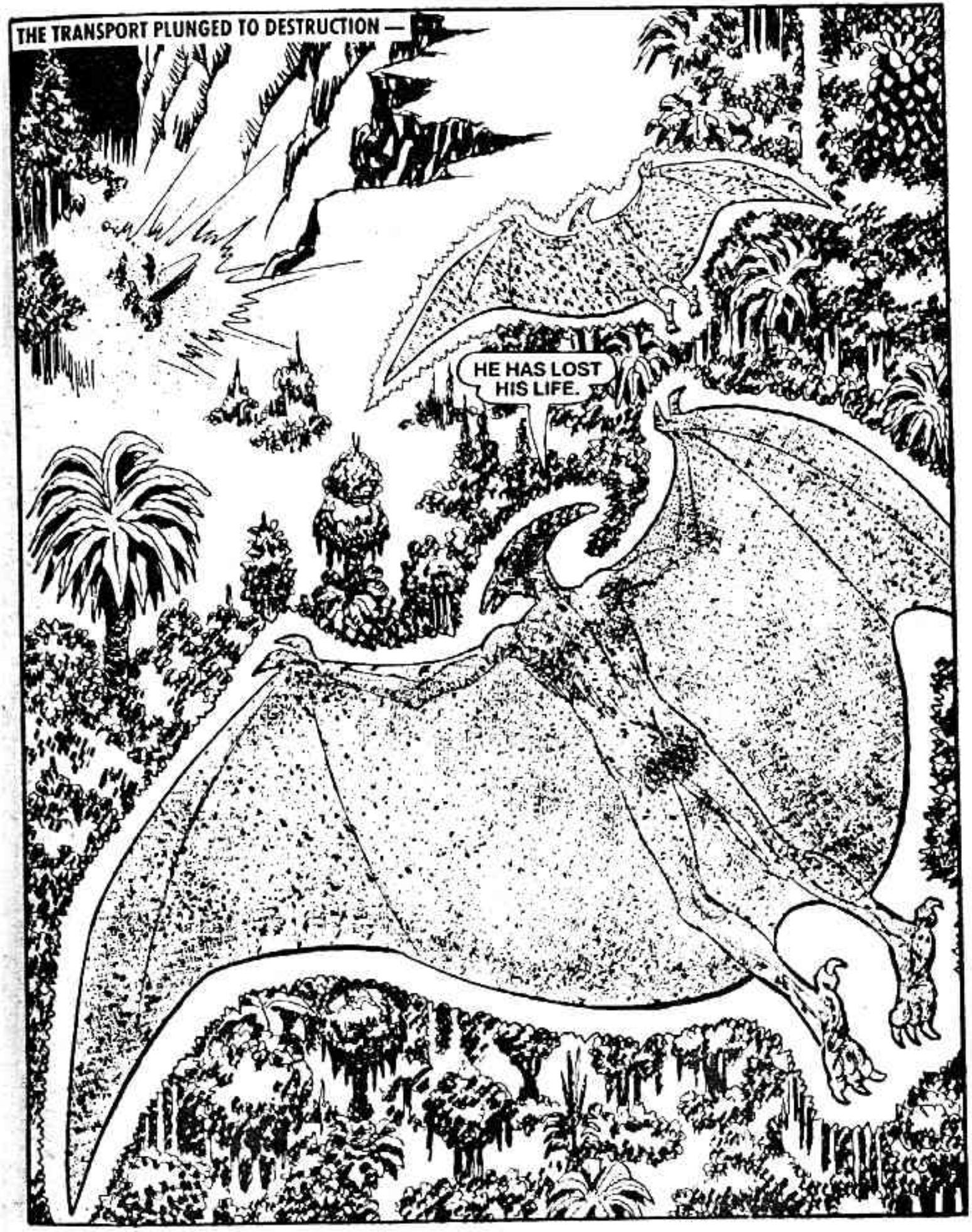
AS EDEN WAS ABOUT TO MOVE ON, HE SAW A FIGURE IN A CLEARING.
A WOMAN! IT MAY BE A TRAP, BUT SHE SEEMS TO BE ALONE.
EDEN LANDED—
PERHAPS SHE KNOWS WHERE THE VAMPIRES ARE.


MY FRIENDS ARE INJURED IN THE FOREST. WILL YOU RESCUE THEM?
SHE HAS THE BURN MARKS ON HER FACE! I'VE NO INTENTION OF STUMBLING INTO ANOTHER AMBUSH.
WHAT CURIOUS 'FRIENDS' YOU HAVE!

THEY'RE JUST SOAKING UP MY SHOTS!
TRAITOR!

I MUST GET OUT OF HERE.
SURRENDER NOW, THERE CAN BE NO ESCAPE FOR YOU.

THE HUNTER'S FLIGHT WAS IMPEDED BY DEVICES THROWN AT HIS TRANSPORT.
THEY'RE SUCKING THE POWER FROM THE DISK'S ENERGY CELLS. I'M LOSING ALTITUDE!


THE TRANSPORT PLUNGED TO DESTRUCTION —
HE HAS LOST HIS LIFE.

THE VAMPIRES REMAINED UNAWARE THAT EDEN HAD ACTIVATED HIS JET PACK AND HOVERED UNSEEN BEHIND A BUSH.

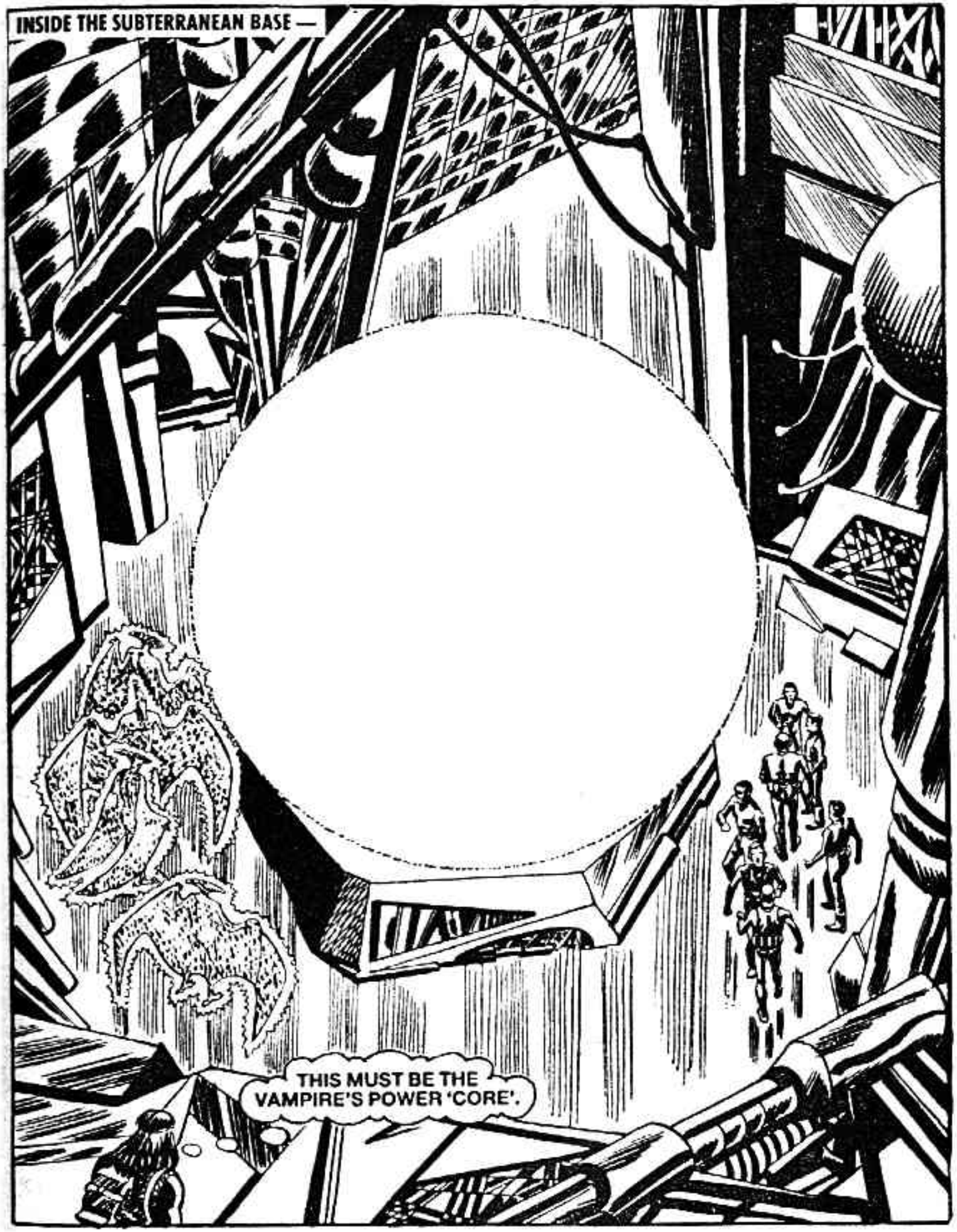
THERE IS NOTHING HERE THAT CAN BE SALVAGED.

EDEN FOLLOWED THE VAMPIRES TO THEIR BASE DEEP IN THE HEART OF THE FOREST.

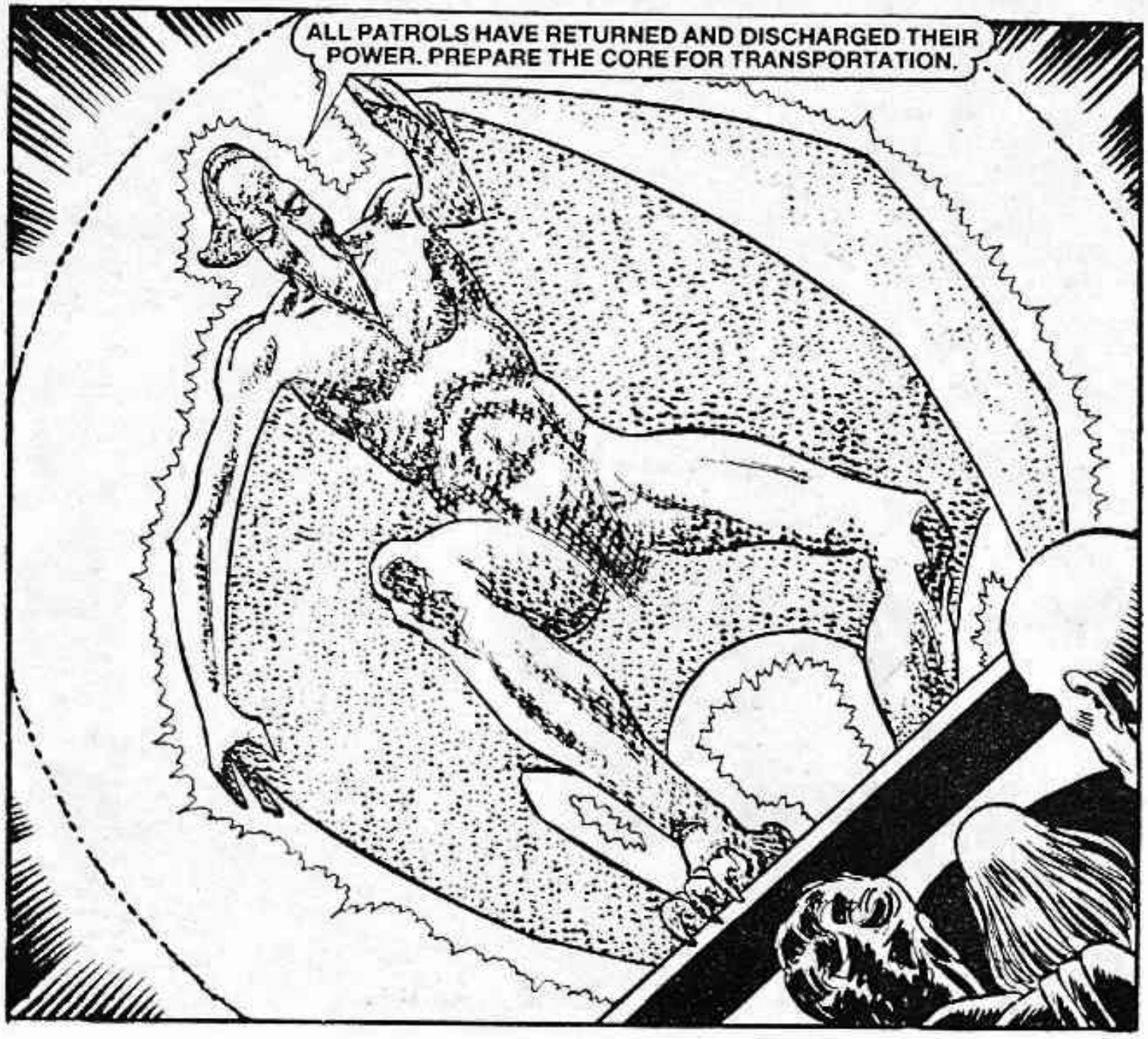
I'VE GOT TO KNOW WHAT THEY'RE DOING INSIDE THERE.

WITH THE AID OF VEGETABLE DYE, EDEN SIMULATED THE "V" MARK ON HIS BROW AND THEN MOVED INTO THE ENEMY BASE.

THIS HAS TO WORK!


INSIDE THE SUBTERRANEAN BASE —
THIS MUST BE THE VAMPIRE'S POWER 'CORE'.

THEY'RE TRANSFERRING THE ENERGY COLLECTED INTO THE 'CORE'.


ALL PATROLS HAVE RETURNED AND DISCHARGED THEIR POWER. PREPARE THE CORE FOR TRANSPORTATION.

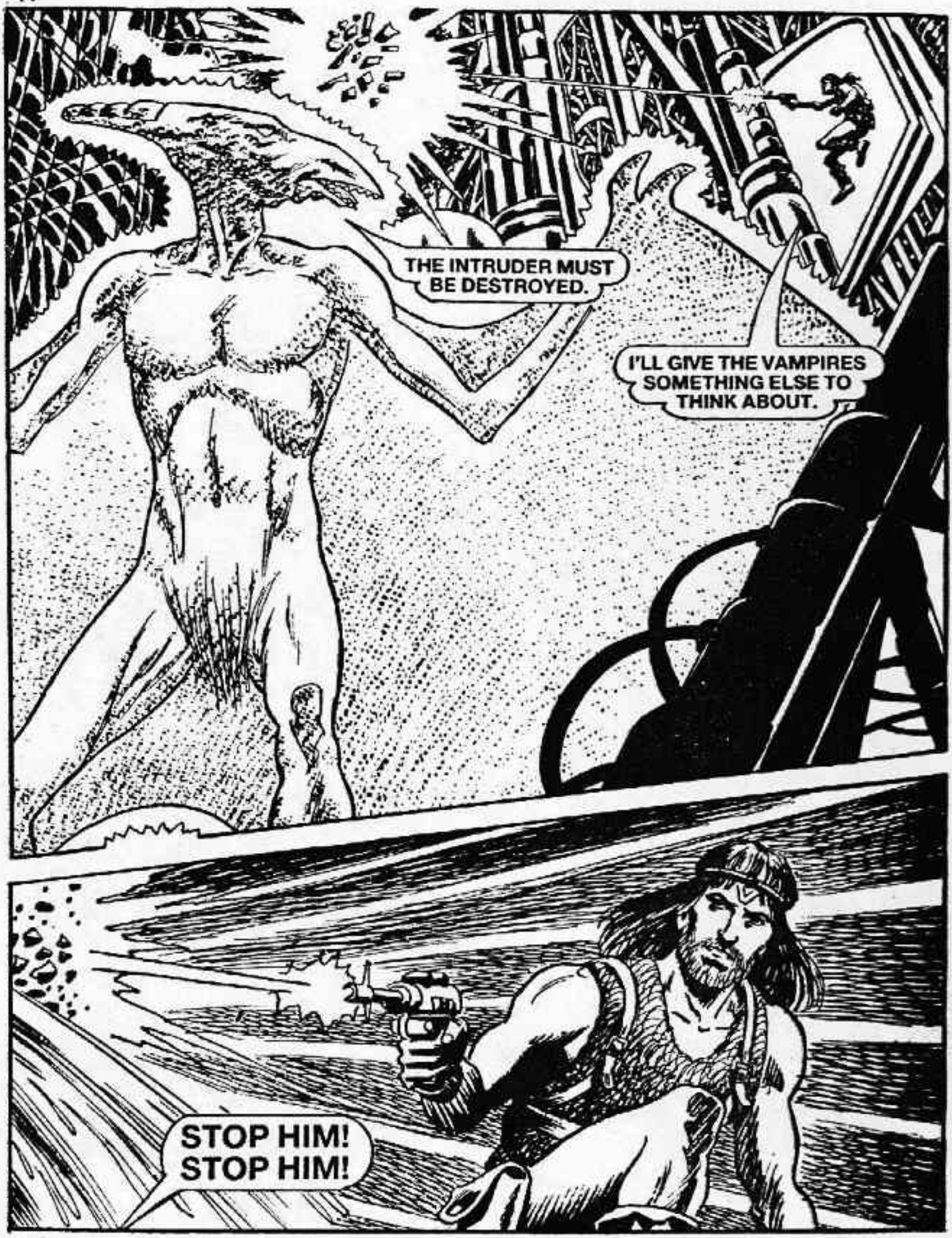
THE CREATURE'S PRISONERS OBEYED.

I'D BETTER LOOK BUSY, FIRST I'D BETTER HIDE MY JETPACK.

BUT BEFORE HE COULD DO ANYTHING —
HE'S A SPY! KILL HIM!
TROUBLE!

FORTUNATELY, EDEN HADN'T DISPOSED OF HIS JETPACK —
HOW CAN I STOP THEM?

LET'S SEE HOW POWERFUL THIS BEAM REALLY IS.
EDEN ALTERED THE BEAM'S TRAJECTORY —
IT'S POWERFUL ENOUGH!


THE INTRUDER MUST BE DESTROYED.
I'LL GIVE THE VAMPIRES SOMETHING ELSE TO THINK ABOUT.
STOP HIM! STOP HIM!

THE CORE IS LOSING ITS POWER!
THE VAMPIRES SEEMED TO WEAKEN AS THE CASCADING WATER FLOODED IN.
MAYBE I'VE DISCOVERED SOMETHING HERE.
EDEN WAS TOO INTERESTED IN HIS SUCCESS TO NOTICE THE DANGER FROM A VAMPIRE SUCKER.

BUT SOME PRIMEVAL SIXTH SENSE CAUSED HIM TO SPIN ROUND.
THE VAMPIRES SUCKER STRUCK A ROOF SUPPORT, DESTROYING IT.

EDEN MADE A BID FOR SAFETY —
I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE THE ENTIRE PLACE CAVES IN.

EDEN REACHED SAFETY JUST AS THE CAVE COLLAPSED.
THE VAMPIRES ARE DEAD!
BUT EDEN WAS MISTAKEN! THE VAMPIRES HAD NOT PERISHED. A HUGE CRAFT BLASTED OUT OF THE RUBBLE.
THEY'VE SURVIVED! HOW ON EARTH?
USING A RADAR TRACKER, EDEN FOLLOWED THE TRANSPORTER.

EDEN REACHED THE VAMPIRE'S CITY BY SUNRISE.
JUPE... WHAT IS THIS?

THE VAMPIRES MUST HAVE RETIRED FOR THE DAY. OF COURSE . . . THESE CREATURES ONLY OPERATE BY NIGHT — DAYLIGHT IS THEIR ENEMY.

EDEN BURIED HIS JETPACK IN THE SAND AND CREPT INTO THE CITY, ONCE AGAIN TRYING TO PASS HIMSELF OFF AS A CONTROLLED HUMAN.

INSIDE HE SAW THE MIGHTY POWER 'HIVE'.
A PLAN OF ATTACK WAS FORMING IN HIS MIND.

SO FAR SO GOOD! WHERE'S THE CONTROL ROOM?

HE FOUND THE ROOM EASILY —

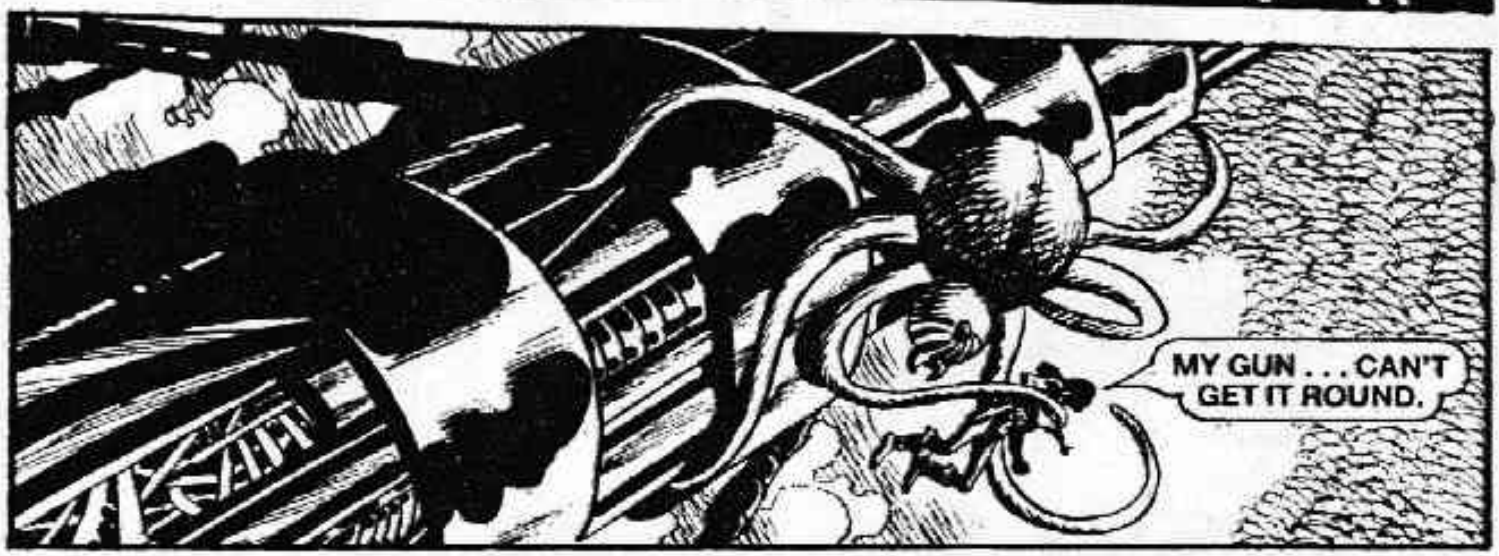
LOOKING FOR REVENGE!
THESE MEAN NOTHING TO ME . . .

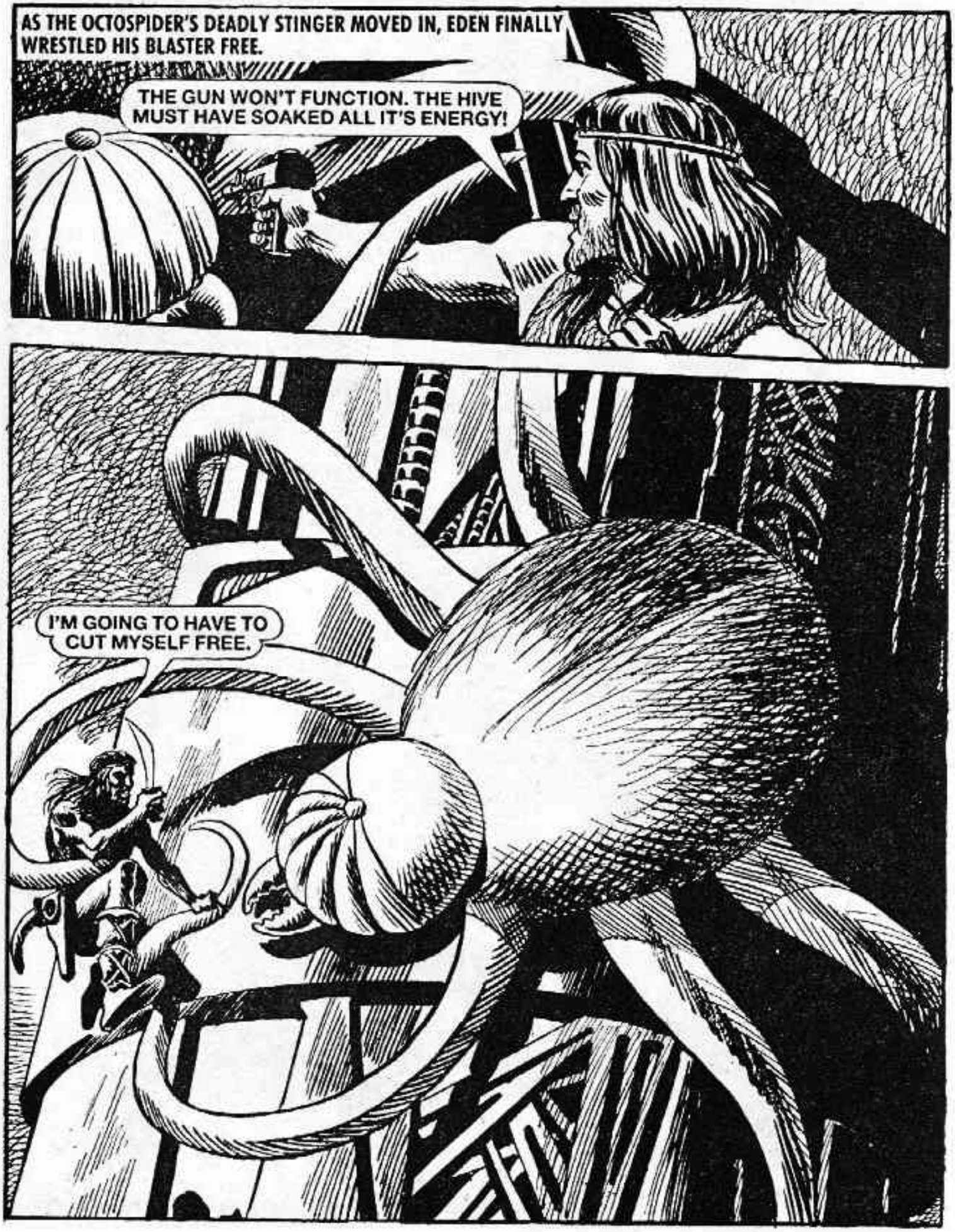
. . . BUT SOMETHING MUST HAPPEN IF I PRESS THEM ALL.
SOMETHING DID HAPPEN. CONFUSED BY THE JUMBLED INSTRUCTIONS, THE COMPUTER SOUGHT TO MAKE SENSE OF EDEN'S "MESSAGE" —
IT IS TOO HOT IN HERE!
DID YOU DISTURB MY REST FOR THIS? HAVEN'T YOU CHECKED WITH THE CONTROL ROOM?
THERE'S NO REPLY . . .

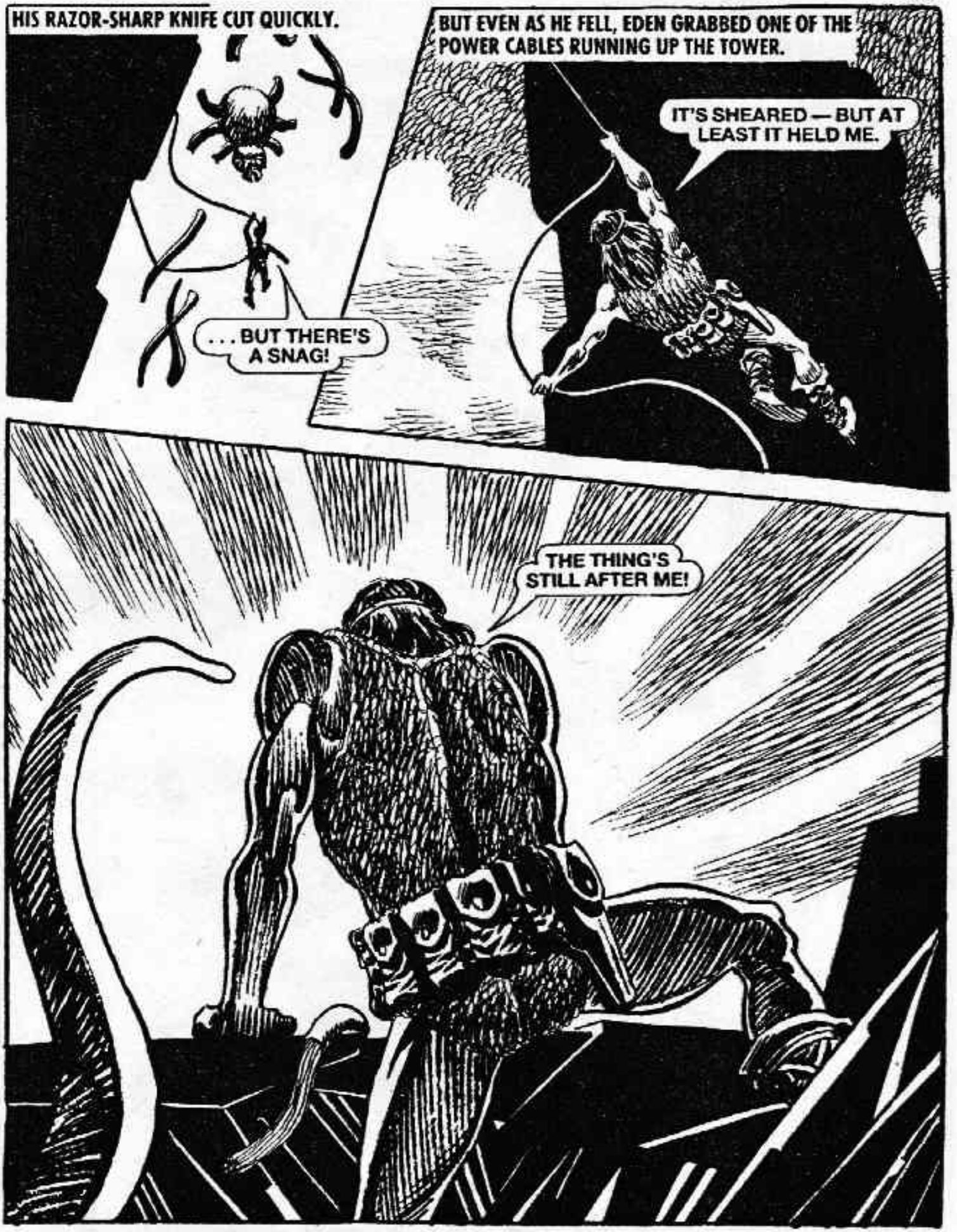
BY THE TIME THEY REACHED THE CONTROL ROOM, EDEN HAD DEPARTED.
SOUND THE ALERT . . . SOMETHING IS NOT RIGHT.
IF I RECALL THE VID IN THE CAVE OF DREAMS, THIS IS A WEATHER TOWER.

EDEN CLIMBED SLOWLY UP THE TOWER—
HALFWAY UP, A SLIMY TENTACLE WHIPPED ROUND HIS CHEST.
WH . . . WAAAAA . . .

AN OCTOSPIDER! URGGGH!


MY GUN . . . CAN'T GET IT ROUND.


AS THE OCTOSPIDER'S DEADLY STINGER MOVED IN, EDEN FINALLY WRESTLED HIS BLASTER FREE.
THE GUN WON'T FUNCTION. THE HIVE MUST HAVE SOAKED ALL IT'S ENERGY!
I'M GOING TO HAVE TO CUT MYSELF FREE.

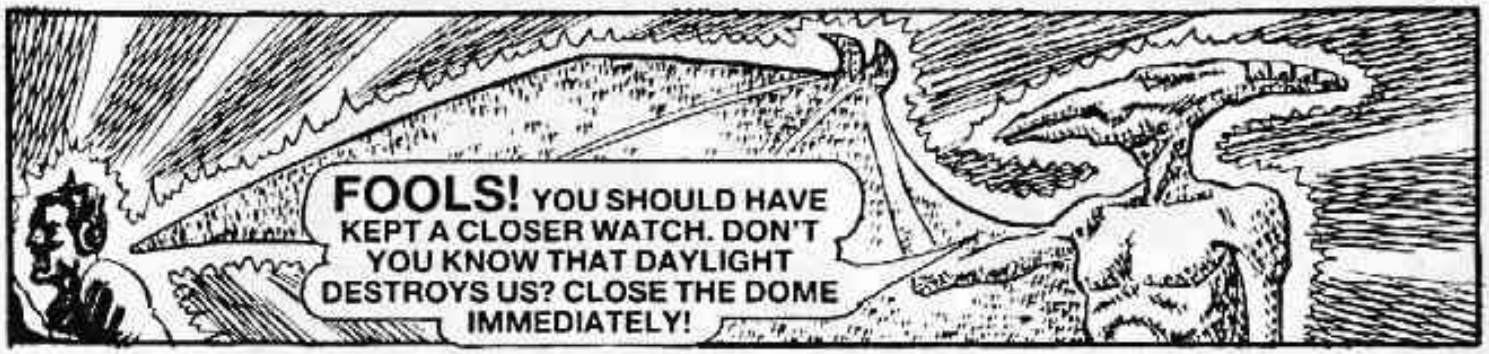

HIS RAZOR-SHARP KNIFE CUT QUICKLY.
. . . BUT THERE'S A SNAG!
BUT EVEN AS HE FELL, EDEN GRABBED ONE OF THE POWER CABLES RUNNING UP THE TOWER.
IT'S SHEARED — BUT AT LEAST IT HELD ME.
THE THING'S STILL AFTER ME!

EDEN HAULED HIMSELF CLEAR AS THE OCTO SPIDER LUNGED AT HIM.
MISSED ME — CUT THE CABLE. FRIED OCTOSPIDER.
EDEN'S ARRIVAL ON THE PLATFORM WAS NOT UNEXPECTED, BUT UNSEEN.
JOIN THE SPIDER!

EDEN WALKED INTO A TRAP—
DIE!
BUT EDEN'S QUICK REACTIONS SAVED HIM—
THE OLDEST TRICK IN THE BOOK.

EDEN FOUND THE CONTROL ROOM.
IF THESE VAMPIRES DON'T LIKE DAYLIGHT, OR WATER, PERHAPS A SPELL OF SUNNY WEATHER WITH SCATTERED SHOWERS WILL SEND THEM PACKING.
STORM

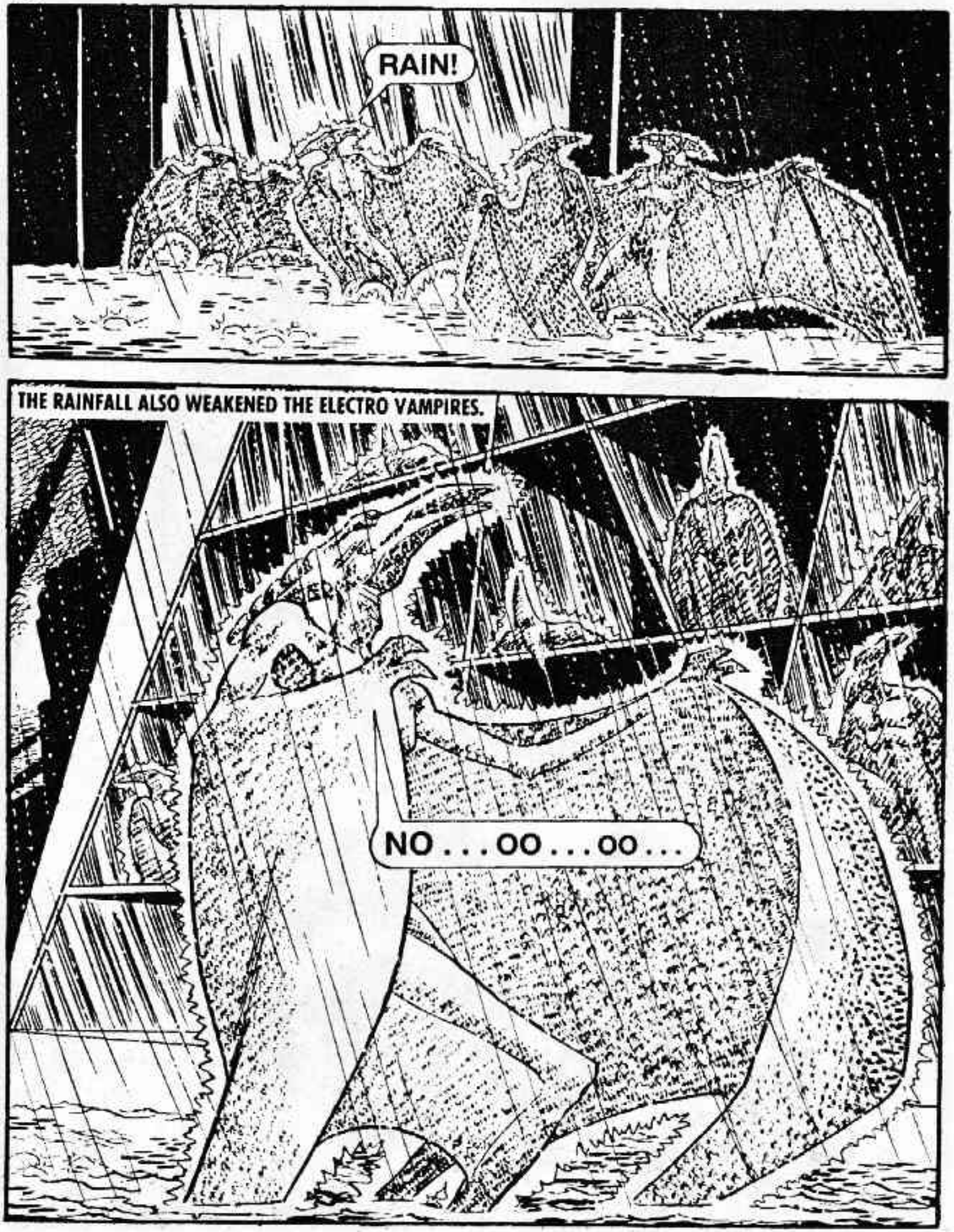
IN THE DOMED CITY—
WHY HAS THE DOME'S ROOF BEEN OPENED?
IT WASN'T US . . . IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE WEATHER TOWER.


FOOLS! YOU SHOULD HAVE KEPT A CLOSER WATCH. DON'T YOU KNOW THAT DAYLIGHT DESTROYS US? CLOSE THE DOME IMMEDIATELY!

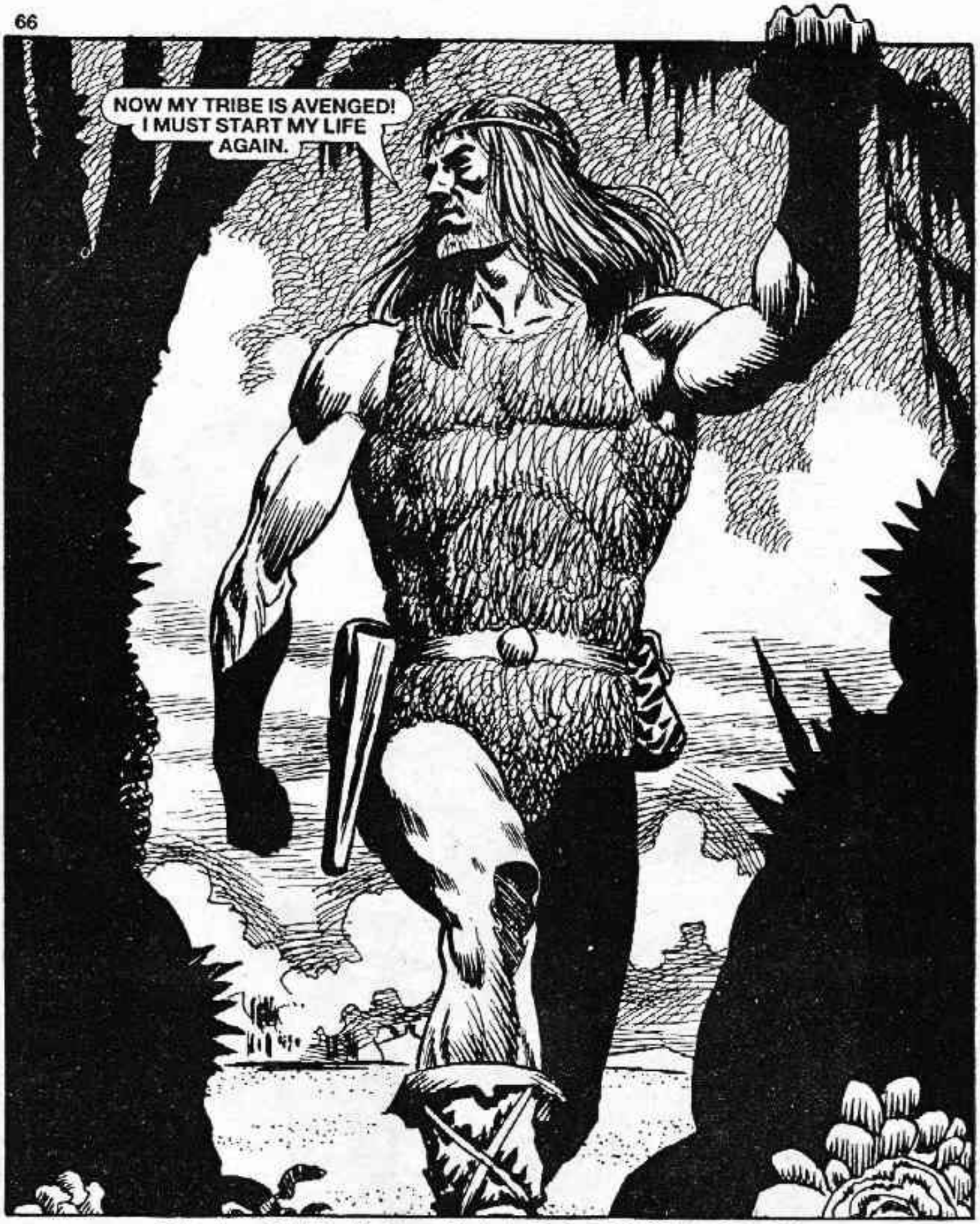
THE DOORS WILL NOT CLOSE — THEY ARE IN WEATHER PROGRAM SEQUENCE.

AN INTERLOPER! HE MUST BE CAPTURED AT ONCE!
THE CLOUDS!

HERE GOES!
EDEN HAD INDUCED A TROPICAL RAINSTORM.
IT'S WORKED!


RAIN!
THE RAINFALL ALSO WEAKENED THE ELECTRO VAMPIRES.
NO . . . OO . . . OO . . .

THEY DIE . . . WHAT HAPPENS TO US?
YOU DIE AS WELL!
BUT WE ARE HUMAN?
HUMAN BODIES, BUT NOT SOULS — YOU ARE EVIL CREATURES AND DESERVE TO DIE.



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Have you any comments to make about STARBLAZER. . . good or bad? _____

_____

EDEN
THE HUNTER

Made an outcast because his mistake had caused the death of fellow villagers, Eden swore vengeance. The only trouble was — he didn't know what he was fighting.

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